

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 SSO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 CPR-01 OC-06

CCO-00 SS-15 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /046 W

----- 033546

O R 281538Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9262

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, MRS. NELSON), UK, NO, FI, UR,US

SUBJECT: MRS. ROCKEFELLER'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

REF: STATE 240205

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, WE PRESSED INTOURIST TO MAKE EXCEPTION TO USUAL PRACTICE AND SEND BILLS FOR MRS. ROCKEFELLER'S MOSCOW VISIT TO MRS. WHITMAN IN NEW YORK, WE WERE TOLD THAT EVEN FOR WIFE OF AMERICAN VICE-PRESIDENT THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE; REGULATIONS PERMITTED NO EXCEPTIONS TO FULL PAYMENT IN ADVANCE FOR ENTIRE PACKAGE INCLUDING MEALS, TOURS, TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING. WITH DEPT. AUTHORIZATION, EMBASSY WOULD BE HAPPY TO PREPAY PACKAGE WITH HARD CURRENCY INSTRUMENT HERE, BUT WE MUST DRAW CHECKS FROM RFC PARIS AND POUCH SCHEDULES MAKE RECEIPT OF MATERIALS FROM RFC IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS REMAINING BEFORE VISIT VERY CHANCY.

2. WE HAVE EXAMINED QUESTION CLOSELY AND WOULD SUGGEST THAT MOST PRACTICABLE METHOD WOULD BE TO EFFECT PAYMENT BY MEANS OF AMERICAN EMPRESS VOUCHER. INTOURIST WOULD FIND THIS ACCEPTABLE, AND SENIOR AMEXCO REP HERE HAS ADVISED THAT PAYMENT COULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO AMEXCO NEW YORK OFFICE. LATTER WOULD THEN ISSUE VOUCHER WHICH COULD

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BE BROUGHT TO SOVIET UNION BY MEMBER OF MRS. ROCKEFELLER'S

PARTY.

3. WE WILL SEND TO DEPT. SEPT 29 OUR (AND INTOURIST'S) BEST ESTIMATE OF TOTAL COSTS FOR THE MOSCOW VISIT.

4. INTOURIST INFORMED US TODAY COLLECTIVE FARM VISIT NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF HARVEST ACTIVITY AT TIME OF MRS. ROCKEFELLER'S VISIT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IF WE WERE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY OF HER INTEREST WE COULD ARRANGE A VISIT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, THOUGH, THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD INVOLVE AT LEAST HALF A DAY IN A SCHEDULE WHICH IS ALREADY NEARLY FULL. WE WONDER IF MRS. ROCKEFELLER WOULD WISH TO CANCEL OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS TO ACCOMMODATE THE COLLECTIVE FARM VISIT.

5. FOR SECURITY REASONS WE SEE USEFULNESS IN PROVIDING AMBASSADORIAL CADILLAC FOR MRS. ROCKEFELLER DURING HER MOSCOW STAY. PLEASE ADVISE.

6. WE BELIEVE LENINGRAD MAY WISH TO FOLLOW PAYMENT PLAN SIMILAR TO THAT OUTLINED PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM CONGEN ASAP ESTIMATE OF INTOURIST EXPENSES THERE. CONGEN SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SECRET SERVICE EXPENSES SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE (PER USSS 302, 24 SEP 76).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW15288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760365-1148
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760912/aaaaakfl.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 240205
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. ROCKEFELLER'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION
TAGS: OVIP, UK, NO, FI, UR, US, (ROCKEFELLER, MRS NELSON)
To: STATE LENINGRAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006